

Chet Walker is that kind of person. He is a contributor, a leader and a team-player.

Chet Walker is also a man of character and integrity. In his current career as an independent film producer, he is working on a documentary for Katherine Drexel. She was a nun who taught freed slaves as they worked toward independence. He won an Emmy for a movie he produced about Isaiah Thomas' mother called "A Mother's Courage." These are films that capture real world feelings about challenging issues. They are, indeed, films that make you think. It wouldn't surprise me if one day "Hall of Famer" Chet Walker wins an Oscar. He has set that as his next personal goal, and knowing the way he takes on a challenge, I believe he will meet that goal.

But we should never forget just how skilled Chet Walker was at the game he loved. He was a great basketball player. On one hand, he could lead a team, like Bradley, to a title. On the other hand, he could play a key role in scoring nearly 15 points a game on a team, the Philadelphia 76ers, with Wilt Chamberlain, Hal Greer, Lucious Jackson and Billy Cunningham which not only won the title, but was one of the best NBA teams of all time. Chet Walker could rise to the occasion when he had to, but he always knew that to be a winner the team had to come first. A lesson for all of us to remember.

For his skills and for his character, Chet Walker has earned his place in the NBA Hall of Fame, and I sincerely hope the Honors Committee selects him as part of the 2002 Hall of Fame class.

TRIBUTE TO ELSBETH WILLIAMS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Miss Elsbeth Williams of Fort Collins, Colorado. Elsbeth has been selected to be a member of the prestigious performance organization, The Sound of America Honor Band and Chorus. For this, Mr. Speaker, the United States Congress commends Elsbeth and wishes her the best of luck.

Throughout Elsbeth's high school career she has been a member of the wind ensemble, symphony orchestra, marching band, and choir programs. In addition, Elsbeth is also a member of the Colorado State Honor Band, Larimer County Youth Festival Orchestra, and the Colorado All-State Band. Elsbeth has demonstrated a commitment to musical achievement, leadership and service to her school. As a result of her hard work and dedication, Elsbeth was chosen to become part of The Sound of America Honor Band and Chorus.

This summer, Elsbeth will join the esteemed performance organization for its 2002 European Concert Tour of six European Countries.

As a citizen of Colorado's Fourth Congressional District, Elsbeth Williams is truly a positive role model for the youth of America. She not only makes her community proud, but also her state and country. I ask the House to join me in extending our warmest congratulations to Miss Elsbeth Williams.

RECOGNIZING DEAN J. ROSIAR, II ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize my constituent, Dean J. Rosiar, II of Marblehead, Ohio, who recently accepted his appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Dean will soon graduate from Danbury High School. During his high school career, he has maintained a high grade point average, and is a member of the National Honor Society. He is an accomplished athlete, earning varsity letters in football, basketball, and track and field. And, he has clearly demonstrated his leadership ability, serving as Sophomore Class President, delegate to Buckeye Boys State and as a captain of the football team.

Dean Rosiar can be very proud of his many accomplishments. He is a credit to his family, his school, and his community. By accepting his appointment, Dean is accepting a unique challenge.

The Academy is the pinnacle of leadership development for the United States Army. As a member of the U.S. Corps of Cadets, he will face a most demanding academic curriculum and physical regimen. He will live, study and prepare in an environment where strong leadership thrives, individual achievement is expected, and personal integrity is demanded.

Mr. Speaker, General John W. Vessey, Jr. once wrote, "The Nation's ability to remain free and at peace depends in no small measure on whether we will continue to inspire our youth to serve."

I am confident that Dean Rosiar has the character and ability to excel at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well as he begins his very important service to our Nation.

MICHAEL SINCO HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the lifetime of community service provided by my good friend and neighbor, Michael E. Sinco Sr. of Nanticoke, Pennsylvania. This Tuesday, I will cast my vote in the Pennsylvania primary at the Pope John Paul II Elementary School gymnasium in Nanticoke, and I know I will see Mr. Sinco steadfastly performing his duty at the poll, as he has for so many years. At the age of 90, Mr. Sinco continues to be one of the most active members of the community in Nanticoke, and I know I can always count on him for unvarnished and insightful information about the community.

Last fall at its annual recognition dinner, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Council of the Boy Scouts of America presented Mr. Sinco with a certificate of appreciation for his lengthy service to Scouting.

Mr. Sinco joined the Scouts in 1931. Today he is registered with Troop 418, which meets at the American Legion in Nanticoke.

In 1932, he organized and supervised Boy Scouts in Nanticoke for the Russian relief drive and participated as a member of the steering committee in the development of an athletic meet for Nanticoke Boy Scouts, which was held at Kirby Park that May. He has also supervised athletic meets at the park.

He organized and participated in rescue activities carried out by Boy Scouts in floods that took place in the Nanticoke and West Nanticoke areas, taught Red Cross first aid classes to Scouts in his area and supervised an ecological project in the Nanticoke, Glen Lyon and Sheatown areas in which trees were planted in high runoff areas.

In addition, he initiated a program of after-school activities for Boy Scouts, implemented the first marble tournament for Scouts in the Nanticoke area and organized a drum and bugle corps which was instructed in drill and formations at Falcon's Hall, Nanticoke. He organized a Boy Scouting program for newspaper scribes in 1936 and organized three troops in the council in 1976.

Mr. Sinco also served as chairman of a Scouting effort to provide gifts to children who were in hospitals on Christmas Day and took the gifts to the children. He also worked with the local American Legion on a program of placing flags on servicemen's graves and also organized the placing of flags on the graves of Scouts.

Last but certainly not least, he has worked with his son, Michael E. Sinco Jr., a psychologist, to develop a Scouting program for children with mental retardation or physical disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see, Michael E. Sinco Sr. is a tremendous example of how one person truly can make a difference in the lives of numerous other people. I congratulate him on receiving this well-deserved honor from the Northeastern Pennsylvania Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and I send him and his family my best wishes.

IN RECOGNITION OF REVEREND HOMER DEWITT WILLIAMS

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Reverend Homer D. Williams, on the occasion of his retirement from his pastoral duties at Blueridge United Methodist Church located in Houston, Texas. In recognition of his hard work and dedication to Blueridge United Methodist Church, the congregation is hosting a Roast n' Toast at the Jesse H. Jones Conference Center on May 24, 2002.

A native Houstonian, Reverend Williams graduated from Jack Yates Senior High School before receiving his B.A. in Sociology from Texas Southern University, where he graduated Cum-Laude. While attending Texas Southern University, Reverend Williams received several accolades and honors including, Who's Who of American Colleges and Universities and remained a permanent fixture on the Dean's List. Reverend Williams also received a Masters of Divinity degree from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist

University, an advanced five-year Conference Course of Study. He served the nation for four years of in the United States Navy and was honorably discharged in 1963.

Reverend Williams has established a legacy by designing and implementing programs to enhance the education and spiritual needs of the youth in the Houston community. He believes that simple instruction and guidance from the church can make a huge difference in the lives of young people, leading him to serve on the Board of Directors of One Church-One Child; Advisory Committee of Sunnyside Multi-Purpose Center and Health Center; and the Prison Ministry-Innnerchange Freedom Initiative program, Jester II Unit, Sugarland Texas. Additionally, he has served on numerous boards and conferences, including the Board of Directors of the Wesley Foundation of Texas Southern University and the University of Houston; Conference Board of Stewardship; and the Finance Committee of Black Methodist for Church Renewal.

In all that he has done, Reverend Williams has remained very active in the United Methodist Church (UMC) at the state level, having served in State Conferences for the past 27 years under six appointments. His prior appointments include, Adkins Memorial UMC; East Hempstead Circuit, Harper UMC; St. Thomas UMC; Shaw Tabernacle; St. Andrews UMC; and Blueridge UMC where he has served 12 years. In honor of his dedication to successfully cultivating and building spiritual foundations throughout the State of Texas, Reverend Williams was ordained Deacon in 1989 at the UMC Annual Conference and then Elder in 1997.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Williams has been a leader in our community and I congratulate him on providing 28 years of service within the United Methodist Church and for his successful spiritual guidance to many.

COMMENDING MR. CAMILO
DUARTE

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and commend a constituent of mine, Mr. Camilo Duarte, for the work he is doing to help Colombian Americans and Colombian immigrants in the United States. Mr. Duarte is in Washington, DC this week, meeting with Members and congressional staff, to discuss the worsening crisis in Colombia, and specifically, activities by the FARC terrorist group in Colombia.

Mr. Speaker, my community perhaps more than any other in the United States, is witness to the crisis in Colombia. There is a growing Colombian immigrant community in the United States, numbering more than 280,000 in just Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties of South Florida. Many of them have already become U.S. citizens. They are mothers and fathers, children, students, businessmen, middle class professionals, and workers all seeking a better life. They are hard-working immigrants which I welcome to my community just as I have welcomed others fleeing communist insurgencies in Latin America, or coming to America seeking a better life for their children.

These immigrants are fleeing the violence in Colombia in ever-increasing numbers and the migration will not stop until the terrorists are defeated in Colombia. These immigrants are firsthand witnesses to terrorism, narcotrafficking, kidnapping and random violence by the Colombian terrorists, which seek to overthrow, with assistance from the Cuban dictatorship, the elected government of Colombia.

Mr. Speaker, we should listen to what the Colombian American community, and their leaders, can tell us. I welcome Mr. Duarte to Washington, DC and look forward to working with him on issues of mutual concern.

TRIBUTE TO MIRIAM (PAT)
ESTELLE LAPPLE

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Miriam (Pat) Estelle Lapple, a dear friend, constituent, community leader and public servant who will be celebrating her 70th birthday on June 9.

Pat was born in St. Bernard, Ohio on June 9, 1932. She grew up during the Great Depression in the town of Woodlawn, attended Woodlawn Elementary, and then went on to Reading High School. Without a doubt, Pat has lived an active and full life over the past 70 years.

Following high school, Pat married and started a family. She stayed home with her children for 12 years before going back to work for the next 40 plus years.

Pat has always been very dedicated to our community. Among her work and activities, Pat was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star for over 30 years, serving as Worthy Matron (President) in 1970 and again in 1972. Pat also wrote the Reading Social News, a column which appeared in the Valley Courier for 19 years. For the past 9 years, she has served as Clerk of Council for the Reading City Council.

Pat also has been a member of the Reading Republican Club since 1989. She was President of the Club in 1992. In 1995, she was the Reading Republican of the Year.

Other activities include her past volunteer work at Hilltop School, where she taught disadvantaged kindergarteners in the Early I.D. program, and her service as a liturgist at St. John United Church of Christ.

Pat has a great sense of humor, and 5 children, 11 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren and, in her words, "two really spoiled dogs." She is a wonderful person, and her beloved Reading, Ohio is fortunate to have her. All of us in the Cincinnati area recognize Pat's outstanding service and contributions to our community.

AIR TRAFFIC RETIREMENT
REFORM ACT OF 2002

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Air Traffic Retirement Reform

Act of 2002. This legislation will grant air traffic controllers, and more specifically air traffic controller supervisors, the same treatment that federal firefighters and law enforcement officers (LEOs) receive under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and the Federal Employment Retirement System (FERS).

Both the CSRS and the FERS provide early retirement benefits and require mandatory separation for safety-related occupations, including federal firefighters, LEOs and air traffic controllers. Under both CSRS and FERS, firefighters/LEOs and controllers are eligible for retirement after 25 years of service or after becoming 50 years old and completing 20 years of service. Additionally, the annuities for firefighters, LEOs and controllers are higher than ordinary federal employees under CSRS and FERS.

However, the current definition of an air traffic controller in both CSRS and FERS is limited to people who are actively engaged in directing air traffic or their immediate supervisors. As a result, air traffic controllers who are promoted to staff specialists or second level managers before they are eligible to retire lose all benefits currently guaranteed controllers under CSRS and FERS. Yet, firefighters and LEOs that are promoted to management positions do not need to make a similar sacrifice.

The Air Traffic Retirement Reform Act of 2002 amends the CSRS and FERS to provide a more expansive two-tier definition of air traffic controllers. The new definition will include both employees covered under the current definition of air traffic controllers and second level supervisors. Second level supervisors would be eligible for the same retirement benefits available to line-controllers.

The Air Traffic Retirement Reform Act of 2002 provides fairness and parity, between air traffic controllers and other federal safety professionals.

THE FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
PAY EQUITY AND REFORM
ACT OF 2002

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 2002

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, during National Law Enforcement Memorial Week, to introduce the Federal Law Enforcement Pay Equity and Reform Act of 2002.

Mr. Speaker, this week in our nation's capital and around America, a variety of events are being held to honor law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty and those who continue to serve. The very real dangers faced by the dedicated men and women who protect us every day was brought home as never before last September 11.

While we cannot turn back the clock and undo what was done, we can and must do everything within our power to ensure that it never happens again. And it is our law enforcement officers, and, in particular, our federal law enforcement agencies, that are charged with that paramount mission. The bill I am introducing today will help accomplish this goal by enhancing and modernizing the compensation system for our nation's federal law enforcement officers.